

**SECRET**

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for modifying a pre-existing graphical user interface (GUI) comprising a tree structure of GUI components each having a display area defined by area parameters and operable by a cursor control input device and at least some of the GUI components having listeners for responding to events from said input device is proposed.

The method comprises:

- (a) providing at least some of the components with a component mode indicator identifying the component as being in an operation mode or in an edit mode,
- (b) detecting a main trigger event inputted by a user;
- (c) upon occurrence of a main trigger event, inhibiting all component listeners and updating component mode indicators based on the location of the cursor relative to the component areas at the time of the main trigger event,
- (d) when at least one component is in edit mode, detecting area parameter change events from the cursor controlled input device,
- (e) when such area parameter change events occur, identifying from these events a target component for area parameter change and applying corresponding area parameter changes to the target component.

Application to GUI customization without source code access, in particular in MVC (model-view-controller) design pattern environment.